# WENDELL POST

Vol. XVIII, no. 4

Feb-Mar

Winter '95

50¢ (cheap)

## You Gotta Have Art

To have a Munson is the rage.
Wendell Town hall has one above it's stage.
Painted for a Depression wage.
Now it's showing too much age.
LET'S FIX IT!

Our Munson painting on canvas is the stage's curtain. A few other towns still have similar stage curtains, but each is hand-painted and one of a kind.

Our stage curtain is ripped a little, the paints faded, and water damaged. Parts of it have remained unseen due to the way it is hung. Help is on the way. A canvas repair professional, and the artist are in the wings, ready for a labor of love.

During the Great Depression, a pair of talented brothers, the Munsons, both formally trained artists, ingeniously came up with a plan to survive in a time when fine art was too much of a luxury to afford. The brothers approached each area town with the offer of a new stage curtain, and they sold local businesses an advertising opportunity. At the heart of each curtain they painted a simple rural scene, surrounded by brightly colored ads. Wendell Town Hall was a great center of social activity in those days. Wendell agreed to the stage curtain, the only one we have to this day.

Past attempts to fix the aging curtain were stalled by the lack of someone to repair the canvas material. During the Wendell Bicentennial, the Munson family was identified as the painters and contacted. Interest started in restoration. Now, suddenly the alignment of people is right, and there is progress. Ria McCrea Windcaller ', who lives right next to the Townhall, is a professional at fabric repair, with the heavy machines to do the job.

Thurston Munson, the surviving brother of the painting duo, is at this moment back in Greenfield painting murals. Both Ria and Mr. Munson have agreed to work on the curtain for cost of materials.

cont'd. page three

## THINK GLOBALLY/SERVE LOCALLY
## TOWN ELECTIONS: MAY 1ST

Many opportunities for active participation in Wendell Town government will be available this spring. Annual Town elections will be held on **Monday, May 1st**; nomination papers can be obtained from Town Clerk Annie Hartjens and must be returned by Monday, **March 13th**. And you may always run as a "write-in" candidate. The following positions will appear on the May ballot. Consider where YOU might best serve the town:

**Selectboard** ( 1). Chief executive officer of the town, responsible by law for carrying out the instructions of Town Meeting and providing administration for town departments. Has general supervision over all matters not assigned by statute to other town officers, makes appointments to certain town offices and boards, issues certain licenses and special permits. Term: three years.

**Assessor** (1). Responsible for the administration and technical work in appraising property for tax purposes and assessing taxes, determines the valuation of real and personal property for levying and abating local taxes. Computer skills helpful but not required. Term: three years.

**Moderator** (1). Presides over and regulates all town meetings, decides all questions of order, recognizes those who wish to speak at meetings and removes disorderly persons, makes public declarations on all votes, may administer oath of office to town officers in open meeting. Term: one year.

**Road Commissioner** (2). Oversees the construction and maintenance of all town roads, employs--with the approval of the Selectboard--and supervises highway employees. Term: one three year position; one one-year position).

**ANNUAL TOWN ELECTIONS**
NOMINATION PAPERS DUE:
**MONDAY, MARCH 13TH**
LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE:
**TUESDAY, APRIL 11TH**
ANNUAL TOWN ELECTIONS:
**MONDAY, MAY 1ST**

cont'd. page three

## Wendell Bandstand

In 1976 the Wendell Historical Society decided to rebuild the Wendell Bandstand. Research, discussion and planning was part of this process.

In 1991 the Wendell Positive Action Committee decided to take up where the 76' group had left off. Fund raising and actual construction was a part of this process.

G. Kegeles Photo

Here are a few facts:

..The Bandstand is built actually as it was and where it was. The only changes were structural to meet new building codes. No modernization was a theme in 1976 as well as in 1991.

..The original bandstand was built in the late 1800's and torn down in the late 1920's when it became dilapidated and dangerous.

cont'd. page three

# WENDELL POST

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Subscription: 12 issues for $15
P.O. Box 113, Wendell, MA 01379

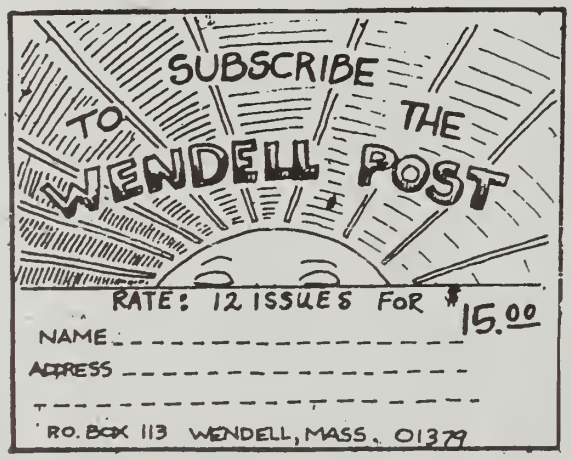

## POST ARTICLE INSTRUCTIONS

All articles and letters submitted to the Post for publication need to be signed. If you have a computer, you can help by setting them in our style: 3 3/4" wide, 10 point font size, standard font. Indent three spaces for paragraphs, and do not use an extra space between paragraphs. Please be brief, to share our limited space. If you have questions, call a Post staffer.

Articles: The Post welcomes signed, concise articles about topics of interest to Wendell

Letters: The Post accepts brief letters. Remember, passion doesn't need to be mean.

Artwork: Local artwork lovingly accepted. Must be in shiny black ink.




## LETTERS

# A REAL LIFE Adventure with my New Neighbor

August 22, 1994, about 2:30 p.m., Swift River Watershed.

I was nearly home after doing errands in town when I remembered one that I had forgotten. " Damn! ", I said. " I better go back ".

I approached a very attractive and wide mouthed driveway - big enough for turning around. It opened to the road between handsome flatstone walls retaining a bed of cedar bark mulch, populated with flowers. The beauty of the blossoms brightened the day.

As I came about I noticed a rope across the driveway where it narrowed. It made me think that I could pause there long enough to finish off the fries I'd been munching on without bothering anyone. That was my first mistake.

In less than a minute I heard a car in the driveway behind me. A man got out and came to my door with his hands on his hips. " Who are you! " he demanded. " Parker ", I replied, " Parker Cleveland ". I offered my hand. He declined. " Who are you? ", I queried. He identified himself as a state trooper and exposed his identification for several seconds.

He wanted to know what I was doing there, so I told him. He said that there had been some trouble in the neighborhood, and then he asked me if I knew any of the neighbors. I told him I was sorry to hear about the trouble in the neighborhood, and yes, that I did know some of the neighbors. He next wanted to know which of the neighbors I knew. I began to rattle off names, and then he asked for some identification. I turned off my vehicle's engine, and gave him my driver's license. He then asked me what kind of work I do, so I answered him. " Why did you end up here? " he asked. I told him again and then he left to run a check on me.

When he returned he asked me again why I was there. " Same reason I told you before "(the past hadn't changed). Again he asked me to name neighbors, so I did.
" Are they your friends? ". " Yes ", I said, " I think so ". " Do you know Dostis? " " Yes. " " Is he a friend of yours? " " Yes. " " When did you last see him? " " A couple of hours ago...". " Where? ". " In town by the hardware store.". " What did you talk about? " "About going for a steam bath". "Is that all? " " I asked Dostis if he would like to go to lunch. He replied that he was on the go and had to keep moving." " Do you belong to that group in Greenfield that demonstrates?" " What group? " " Don't get smart with me you creep! You know who I mean! ". " What's creepy about me? ". "Everything! Do you belong to that group that demonstrates in Greenfield and Colrain? Are you a tax resistor? " " I support Randy and...". " You're trespassing ", he injected, his finger pointed in my face, " and if I ever see you or your creepy friends around here, you're going to jail! Is there anything about this transmission that you don't understand?", he demanded to know while spots of spit hit my face like rain sprinkles before a storm.

I said, " I think there would be a trial, and a judge who would decide about that. ".

" If you ever come around here again you had better have your affairs in order! Do you understand me? ".

His presentation was most emphatic. Images of Rodney King flashed in my mind. I did not know what to say, or even if I should believe my own ears. That was my second mistake. On reflection, I think he needed to hear, "Yes Sir!". Before I could collect myself enough to respond, he called for my registration. I handed it over. Then he ordered me out of the car.

I stayed spread out over the fender while he searched my car. Then I was ordered back into the car. As I passed him, obeying his order, he said, " You piece of ****!".(Excrement). I behaved as though I was deaf. I got into the car and belted myself in.

" Get out of here! ", he yelled. "May I have my registration please? ". " You got it". " Where is it? ". "In back. Get out of here! ". I turned my head to look. "On the floor in back". " May I have my license, please? " " It's with the registration. Get out of here! ".

I released the seat belt and began turning to find the documents. Suddenly I saw them... sitting crumpled up... in the palm of his hand! I thanked him, fastened my seatbelt and drove away, very carefully.

NOTES

1) It is especially important that people exercising the public's police power have an impeccable reputation. The safety and work environment of all officers is adversely affected by "bad apples". When other police back up their "bad apple" buddies, they lose the respect that would be due them as peace officers and gain group status.

Lost respect is very hard to restore. This experience has taught me, my whole family, and some friends that some police can be dangerous and should not be trusted.

2) We need an official, independent and effective human rights organization to recieve and hold safe reports like this. The information, or allegations, could help identify problems and lead to treatment or remdial action. For now, I can only hope and pray that he was having a bad day.

3) There are 1034 hours of training in the "Basic Recruit Curriculum" for training our state police. Only five of them deal with stress management.

4) The line between back-up and cover-up cannot be crossed without serious consequences. Helen Keller said, "The best and most beautiful in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt with the heart."

A sense of community is one of those things. Respect and trust are the connective tissues of community. The violation of respect and trust crumbles community the way stress fractures an unmaintained pavement. Each encounter everyone has is an opportunity to strengthen or weaken our sense of community- to upgrade or downgrade the quality of our lives.

Parker Cleveland

## Bandstand Cont'd.

..There is a stone in front of the bandstand that serves as a thank you to the people who helped with this project. This stone came from the foundation of the old Putnam Store at Wendell Depot which was destroyed in the 1938 flood. The stone was donated in memory of Raymond E.Avery by his family. A photo of the store is hanging in the Wendell Tax office.

..Names listed on the bandstand stone are: Harold Burnett Sr
Theodore Lewis
David Wilder Sr
These gentlemen were the people who were there each and every Saturday and still are working on this project to complete it. All other volunteers will have their names listed on the inner side of the roof of the bandstand when the work is completed. A few volunteers have already put their signatures on the roof rafters as the rafters were being installed.

..When the excavation was done for the piers of the Bandstand a piece of the original bandstand was found. This timber will be mounted on the inner side of the roof.

..The Bandstand has been donated to the people of Wendell at no cost to the taxpayers. All monies spent on this project came from Positive Action Committee fundraising.

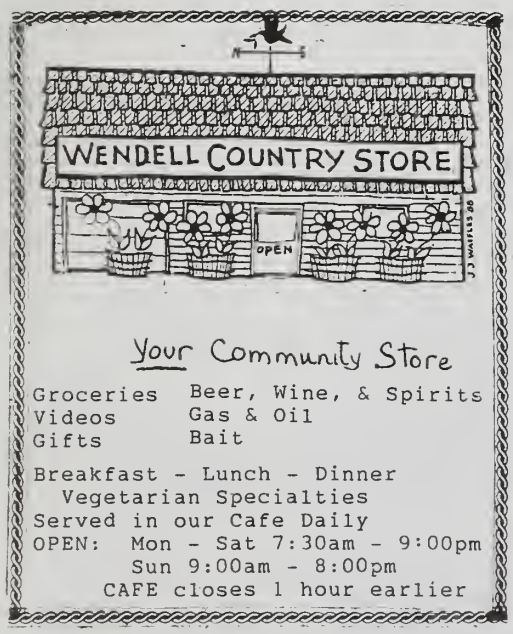
..Material was donated to the project at cost by Sid Mann of Dirth Lumber.

..All labor has been donated at no charge to anyone.

During the next few months the last few steps for the Bandstand will be completed.It is our hope to have a fully completed bandstand for the 1995 Memorial Day Service.

If you know anyone who was involved in 1976 please extend an invitation to them to come to the service and enjoy the first official use for the bandstand.

Judy Wilder
Wendell Positive Action Committee


Your Community Store

Groceries — Beer, Wine, & Spirits
Videos — Gas & Oil
Gifts — Bait

Breakfast - Lunch - Dinner
Vegetarian Specialties
Served in our Cafe Daily
OPEN: Mon - Sat 7:30am - 9:00pm
Sun 9:00am - 8:00pm
CAFE closes 1 hour earlier


## THINK GLOBALLY/SERVE LOCALLY
## TOWN ELECTIONS: MAY 1ST

**Planning Board** (1). Administers the town's Zoning By-Laws including certain special permits. Will undertake the design of a Master Plan for the town influencing the town's future physical and economic development. Term: five years.

**School Committee** (4). Entrusted with broad powers to exercise control and supervision over local education. Formulates general policy, reviews and recommends on school budgets, and appoints certain school personnel. Term: two three- year positions; one two year position; one one-year position.

**Board of Health** (3). Has broad powers to protect public health in town, conducts "perc" tests, inspects and issues permits for new septic systems and dry wells, administers the WRATS, issues licenses for food permits. Will continue to work with the D.& B. Demolition Landfill and consider issues of regional trash disposal. Will supervise the capping of the town landfill. Term: two three-year positions; one one-year position).

**Cemetery Commissioner** . (1) Responsible for supervision, care and management of all public burial grounds in town include. Will be involved with the design, construction, and administration of the new cemetery on New Salem Road. Term: three years.

**Tree Warden.** (1) Has control of all public shade trees and shrubs in town, supervises all tree work done close to the roadside, and monitors the effects of insect pests on public trees. Term: one year.

**Library Trustees** (2). Oversees the operation of the Wendell Free Library, administers library funding from the state, local sources , and trust funds. Term: three years.

**Constable** (1). Posts town warrants, enforces Sunday observance laws, has the power of a sheriff in execution of his/her duties. Term: three years.

Margo

# Cooking fire destroys house

## Wendell man, dogs unharmed

By CAROL LAURIAT
Recorder Staff

WENDELL — A man and three dogs were left homeless after a fire destroyed their one-story 99 New Salem Road home late Thursday night.

Richard Shaw was cooking supper, chicken in a deep fat fryer and french fries in the oven, when it suddenly went up in flames, he said.

"I tried to put it out, but the smoke was too much for me. Then I worried about the dogs. Two of them sleep under the house."

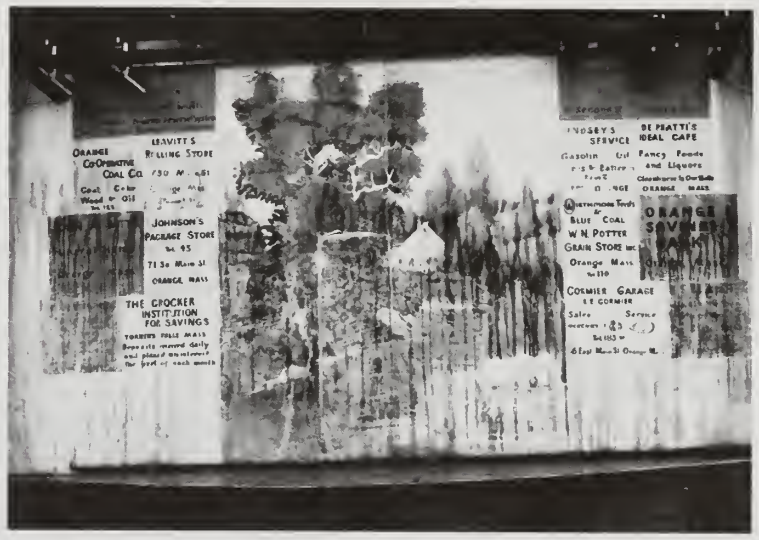
Petting his dog Bandit and sitting quietly on the bumper of a car parked away from his burning house, Shaw mused, "I guess everything is well done now."

The call came in at 9:55 p.m. and on arrival, firefighters found the home fully involved. About 20 firefighters from Wendell, Erving, New Salem and Orange responded with seven pieces of equipment.

At press time, Wendell Fire Chief Everett Ricketts was unavailable and it is not known when the fire was brought under control, or the estimated damage.

Shaw said he does have insurance, but there is no way it could cover the loss of personal possessions — pictures, toys, clothes of his two sons, Timothy, 6 and Andrew, 4, who visit him on weekends.

Shaw said he would probably stay at his sister's or another relative's house, while his other two dogs will stay at a neighbor's house.




G. Kegeles Photo

## Gotta Have Art Cont'd.

The newly revitalized Wendell Historical Society, the "Wendell Post", and The Wendell Positive Action Committee have all separately expressed interest in this project. Later in the spring the Wendell Full Moon Coffee House will give the curtain project a beneficiary night.

This report contains tender plans forming around a hope. We have the principals, the canvas repair person and the painter. We have the Selectboard approving action pertaining to Town property. Now the project needs volunteers to take down the curtain later this spring, to help support and feed the canvas through the sewing machine, bakers for bake sales, people to drive the canvas to and from Greenfield for painting, and knowledgeable persons to reinstall and hang the curtain upon completion.

Call Kathy Becker for offers of support (508) 544-2086. Other involved parties are Judy Wilder from the Historical Society, Ted Lewis of the Selectboard, Elizabeth Scully for Senior Citizen inquiries. Please call now, before you forget, if you want to be involved in a bit of living history or if you know stories about the curtain.

Thanks, Kathy Becker

# D&B DEMO DUMP REPORT

The Wendell Board of Health (WBOH) has become concerned by the tenor of a number of allegations regarding the D&B Demolition Landfill operating in Wendell. We have always seen our primary duty as protecting the health, including the environmental health, of Wendell and understand that we cannot fulfill that function without keeping the citizens of Wendell informed about our activities. For that reason we want to explain some of the basic design principles and safeguards concerning the D&B landfill, as well as address a few of the rumors we have heard.

The D&B landfill is licensed by the state to dispose of demolition debris at its site. Demolition debris consists of material arising from the demolition of structures or of waste material arising from construction activity. In general demolition debris is the least environmentally dangerous classification of landfill material (as compared to, say, municipal solid waste, hazardous waste or radioactive waste). There is, however, some confusion as to when a material constitutes demolition debris and when it is hazardous waste. The primary arbitrator of these decisions is the Mass. Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), although they have always requested (and acceded to) the WBOH judgment before granting approvals for special fill materials.

The D&B landfill is a triple lined landfill - as far as we know it is the only triple lined landfill in the state. All the liners are inspected by the liner manufacturers (who are also held responsible for their performance) and the DEP as they are installed. To insure that the liners are functioning properly, the D&B landfill also has two leachate collection systems (one above the primary liner and one between the primary and secondary liners) which run under the entire landfill. (Leachate is the water which drains out of the landfill as it consolidates.) This leachate, as well as water from five on-site monitoring wells and the neighboring Lyons Brook above and below the landfill site, are tested regularly at state licensed laboratories. The WBOH has copies of the test results in its files. In addition the WBOH and the DEP perform unannounced inspections at the landfill to ensure that only allowable materials are brought to the landfill and that the landfill is operated according to its design. The WBOH has never found evidence that the liners have failed or that hazardous wastes have been deposited on site.

One of the areas of concern appears to be the disposal of materials which can be dangerous to humans when encountered in an everyday environment, but are not a risk whren properly buried. One such material is lead paint, which poses serious health risks if ingested by humans, but is practically inert in the landfill environment. If lead paint arises from a de-leading process it is classified as a hazardous waste, and must be treated as such - which means that it cannot be disposed of at a demolition landfill. If the lead paint arises from a demolition process, it is classified as demolition debris and can be disposed of with no special procedures at a demolition landfill. It is true that D&B receives lead paint as part of certain demolition materials. If anyone has knowledge and evidence of D&B receiving lead paint arising out of a de-leading process we urge you to contact the WBOH.

Other rumors we have heard include allegations of ongoing fires, that the liners melted during the stockpile fire three years ago, that the landfill is in fact a hazardous waste landfill, and that D&B is not paying the town the required fees. All these stories are simply untrue. There was a stockpile fire as well as two lightning fires several years ago The stockpile fire was, of course, very dangerous - as is any fire. However, it did not take place in any of the lined cells and none of the liners were damaged. It is true that one can see small puffs of steam in freshly deposited fill, but these are a normal part of any landfill and pose no risk. As mentioned above, materials classified as hazardous wastes are not allowed into the landfill. The WBOH has carefully pursued all allegations of improper disposal at D&B, yet has never found one to be true. Finally, although D&B has weathered some very difficult financial times, it is current in fees owed to the town and the two escrow accounts which are to be used for the landfill closure. In fact the agreement which was worked out between Wendell and D&B calls for roughly three times the rate mandated by the state and is base on volume instead of weight, making cheating virtually impossible.

There is no doubt that environmental concerns are well taken. Current environmental protections often leave much to be desired, and even good laws are often short-circuited for political and economic reasons. Our society has a long way to go towards true waste minimization, and even if effective programs are implemented many tough decisions will remain for the disposal of solid waste. However, given the current state of affairs, we would be much better off if all the landfills in the state were designed in a fashion similar to D&B.

If you have any questions or complaints we have not addressed, or if you or anyone you know has specific knowledge of illegal or environmentally dangerous activities at D&B, we urge you to contact the WBOH.

Sincerely,

The WBOH:
Bob Leet, Chair
Martina Carroll
Andy Hamilton
Nancy Spittle
Janee Stone

# Elizabeth Scully Honored

**On Saturday, January 21st, more than 140 people gathered at the Wendell Town Hall to celebrate Elizabeth Scully's 70th birthday. Although the weather was gloomy that day, spirits inside the Town Hall were bright as Elizabeth's family and friends joined her in the festivities.**

**The party was organized by Elizabeth's children: Kesiah Scully of New York, NY, Ed Scully of Haverhill, MA and Claudia Scully of Wendell. Elizabeth's brother, Ed Pols, from Brunswick, ME and numerous relatives from New Jersey and Western Massachusetts were also in attendance.**

**Partygoer Anne Perkins remarked that Elizabeth's birthday "drew a bigger crowd than the Annual Town Meeting." It certainly featured a good sampling of the Wendell community and government - nearly every elected and appointed board was represented at the party, along with the familiar faces of those who regularly volunteer for town projects. Elizabeth's was surely a non-partisan party!**

**The excellent food was provided by Myron's Fine Foods of Wendell. The guests feasted on Myron and Kathy Becker's "swan song" of catering, as they phase out that component of their business in order to focus on the #1 Yakitori Sauce. The cake was baked by Jan Borden of Yankee Struedel in New Salem (luckily for those who partook in the confection.)**

**At Elizabeth's request, the Hilltown Fling offered the live music of the day, with Sally Stuffin leading the "Happy Birthday" song. David Kaynor was the caller for the dancing held later in the day, in which many people participated.**

**The Wendell Selectboard honored Elizabeth with a certificate for her five years of service as Selectboard Clerk. Ted Lewis presented the award and Anne Zak and Margo Culley both spoke about Elizabeth's patience and humor while serving as clerk. Margo noted that Elizabeth has earned the title of "Town Mother" for the conscientious care she provides to countless members of the Wendell community. Elizabeth thanked the Selectboard for their kind words and expressed, sometimes tearfully, her appreciation to her children for their love and support and to all of her friends from Wendell and the Athol "Y" for sharing this day with her. She also offered special thanks to Myron and Kathy Becker and the Hillton Fling, "without whom we couldn't have had this party."**

**"It was the best party I've ever been to in Wendell," said Dale Kowacki, "rivaled only by the Swallow Rise Halloween Party held in the mid-eighties." Judy Wilder noticed that the party was attended by a great mix of people who all seemed to be having a great time. "It's definitely Wendell at its best," she said.**

***- Regina Curtis***

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# Community Policing Program

The Towns of Wendell and New Salem have joined forces to present a collaborative community policing effort. Two citizens from each town and the police chiefs and officers have come together as the Community Policing Program Steering Committee. Parker Cleveland and I represent Wendell's interest and Jerry Mills and Joshua Dostis represent New Salem.

Regina Curtis, the Administrative Assistant for New Salem and Wendell, sent in a grant which is part of the Weld agenda to build up community interest and support with local law enforcement throughout the state and received a total of $5,983.91 for this project.

The bulk of the monies will go towards needed equipment for the departments with the rest going to staff development trainings and "tickets" that will be distributed to youths who wear bicycle helmets. These "tickets" are rumored to possibly be redeemable for ice cream at local country stores, so make sure those helmets are taken out of the closet when Spring rolls around.

Currently, there is a survey that can be picked up at the Town offices, Library, Post Offices and the W.R.A.T.S.. The survey, which was written up by the Steering Committee, is requesting information from the community to several questions concerning experiences "good or bad" with the local Police Departments. Your efforts will assist the Towns of New Salem and Wendell identify the strength and limitations of the community Police Departments. As of this writing we have received approximately 22 from each town. So if you haven't filled one out please do. We appreciate your time.

We will be sharing the information on the survey with all residents, also keep an eye out for future Post articles.

Ria Windcaller

# Wendell Fire Log

WENDELL FIRE DEPT. INCIDENTS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 8/22/94 | 1 Medical call | Stone Rd. |
| 9/14/94 | 2 Medical Call | Wendell Depot |
| 9/30/94 | 3 Medical Call | West Rd. |
| 11/29/94 | 1 Medical Call | Wendell Depot Rd. |
| 11/28/94 | 2 Medical Call | Kentfield Rd. |
| 11/29/94 | 3 Vehicle/Structure Fire | Bullard Pasture Rd. |
| 12/24/94 | 1 Wires Down | Jennison Rd. |
| " " | 2 Wires Down | Wendell Depot Rd. |
| 2/3/95 | 3 Medical Call | Lake Grove School |

# Old Fire Station Remodeled

At the last Special Town Meeting, voters approved $4,000 for the purpose of partially renovating the Old Fire Station for use by the Police Dept. During discussion, it was learned that the WPD planned to use the expenditure for materials only. Labor was expected to be volunteer. Plans included partioning off one bay for vehicle garaging and maintenance; the remaining bay to be used as an office area. The office area would also be a place for "booking" persons, much more comfortable for everyone than being stuck in a car while papers are passing. The WPD explained that no holding facilities are planned in Wendell.

On the night of the meeting, the Old Fire House stood vacant. No improvements had been made for many years, and the side door stood open, banging in the wind. What had been built by the enthusiasm of volunteer labor by the Wendell Fire Dept. was about to go under the wing of a new protector.

It is evident that volunteerism is hard at work again. Police Chief Edward Chase reports that Jay Blackbird is wiring now. "After that, it shouldn't be very long before it should be operational." Desks will go in, and computers from the Community Policing Grant. All the books, records and stuff now stored in officer's homes will be filed in filing cabinets. "It will give us better communication...we'll be able to have a place to post Restraining Orders", etc. "We'll establish regular office hours for people to drop in and talk about any problems. We are open to suggestions."

Kathy Becker

1992

Wendell Police Department standing with new cruiser purchased in 1992 (left to right: Officer Ann Diemand; Chief Ed Chase; Officer Jim Hebert; Officer Jay Blackbird)

by Gloria Kegeles

# Police Department Location of Wendell

The Wendell Selectboard is currently looking for residents to be on a committee to review the location of the Wendell Police Department and to bring this information before the Annual Town Meeting during the first week of May. This group would look at the use of the Old Fire House, which is the temporary location of the Police Department now and the viability of building an addition on to the Highway Department.

The Police Department was granted $4000.00 to renovate the Old Fire Department. Some of this money was needed to do renovations regardless of who used the building. For example, enclosing the furnace in a separate room.

This May's Annual Town Meeting will be addressing this issue on whether the residents want the Town Common to be the permanent location for the Wendell Police Department. Those residents who would like to work on this important issue are requested to contact the Selectboard immediately.

Ria Windcaller

# Wendell Country Store Puts It's 2 Cents In

The Wendell Country Store, as part of its continuing covenant with the community, announced this week that effective March 1, two percent of the total amount of all collected sales receipts will be donated to the Swift River School. This means that by shopping at the Wendell Country Store, a portion of what you spend will be returned to help the community.

The program works like this: When you shop at the Wendell Country Store ask the clerk for a cash register receipt for what you've paid for. Send all WCS receipts to the Swift River School. 2% of the total amount of the receipts collected will be donated to the Swift River School. According to Nancy Spittle, who is coordinating the program for Swift River School, the money will initially be earmarked for the purchase of software to stock the school's new computer room.

Now you can shop locally knowing that a portion of what you spend will be reinvested in our children's education. For more information call Swift River School.

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# NEWS FROM THE SWIFT RIVER SCHOOL

The PTCA at our school stands for Parent, Teacher and Community Association. The Swift River School PTCA provides the parents, teachers, as well as community members with opportunities to share themselves and their ideas to improve the welfare and education of our young people.

As the volunteer coordinator and a PTCA member at The Swift River School I am able to see how welcoming this school is to its families and interested community members. In return, the parental and community involvement is exceptional.

As I review the notes from our PTCA board meetings this fall, I find there seems to be a home, community and school connection theme threaded through our ideas for how to help the school. Practically every project or activity which we've planned and provided for the school has worked in some way to bring our students, their families as well as their community closer together.

The following will offer you some examples of what our PTCA has offered to encourage outside input to the school so far this year: We have successfully implemented our volunteer program again this year - (close to 100 volunteer questionnaires came back to me before the end of the first month of school!) The Fall Festival brought the students, and many parents and community members together for fun and some money at the school this past October. The holiday Book Fair gave the public as well as parents a chance to benefit the library as well as providing a time to gift shop for the holidays. Our most successful Raffle, which depended heavily on community participation, was also to raise money for the school library.

We again are continuing the tradition of "Common Cents" (which began on Feb. 1st this year) to raise money for the classrooms - another way we look to involve the community in helping to enrich our children's schooling. (Your spare change is welcome any time. Collection jars are in every classroom.) The School Directory, which we put together each year, has helped families contact each other easily, and, of course the school Newsletter keeps parents and the community in touch with their children's life at school.

Every year the PTCA sponsors a speaker who addresses topics which relate to families, childrearing, health issues and/or education. This year we plan to have professionals from The Franklin Mediation Center give a conflict resolution workshop for the public at the school, some evening in March. The specifics for this plan will be publicly posted once we are able to firm up the date.

Some of the other ways the Swift River School opens its doors to you, is by our weekly Wednesday morning "Community Share" when the whole school gets together to sing, or be entertained by artists and performers from the community.

The School Council reviews and oversees our policies and long and short range goals for the school. The Council depends on your thoughts and opinions about improving the education here.

I also would like to note that there is an extensive collection of parenting and health books in the school office which are available to all thanks to funds received from the state for Early Childhood and Health programs.

We are thankful for those that helped to set up and contribute to our displays in the hallways and in classrooms, we thank those of you who gave your time and energy to help with workshops. A special thanks for the extensive volunteer efforts of our local Mori Moto family from Japan (Sunji, Lena, Miya, Yuya and little Sen) all of who have spent generous amounts of time talking about present day life in Japan. They also are doing workshops on calligraphy and language in various classrooms. Thanks too to Rea Windcaller who incorporated language into her impressive Aikito demonstration.

There is something very exciting about this program which involves the whole school's participation. Japanese folklore has been shared on the bus, and Japanese words are exchanged in the hallways, and I've noticed Japanese symbols ("Hiranja") used in personal notes between classmates... and of course it is convenient to be able to plan school assemblies around a common, all-school interest. In fact, we'll be closing our Japanese explorations with an all school Community Share on February 15th featuring class presentations of theater, poetry, and music, with plans for a delicious traditional Japanese luncheon prepared by our cafeteria staff with some help from our neighbor Lena Mori Moto.

I urge you to peek into the school while we are still centering our attentions on Japan. The displays in the hallways are impressive -informative and attractive. Much of what you will see are artifacts which we were able to borrow from the five college collections as well as artifacts contributed by the community.

Beginning on March 20th, our school will focus on Greek culture and traditions with workshops and residencies in music, dance, theater and the visual arts. Our Greek studies will end with an all school Greek Pageant on May 18th with food and dance as well as other related activities. The members of the school's Celebrating Diversity Committee, will work with the school to coordinate the Pageant, theater workshops, Greek Mythology, Folk tales, and other Greek traditions.

We encourage parents, students and community members to participate in the planning and implementing of these Celebrating Diversity programs we are so lucky to have. We are hoping to find people who would like to contribute information, artifacts, help with classroom workshops, and we always welcome any suggestions you may have concerning any part of these most exciting all school programs we are enjoying this year. (If all goes well this year, we may enjoy the same opportunity next year when we hope to study Latino cultures together.) Offering your help could be an exciting and rewarding opportunity to get involved with the school. You may call Erin Williams at 544-2643 or Molly Kaynor at 544-7864 if you have questions, ideas or would like to join in.

Celebrating Diversity is funded in part by the New Salem and Wendell Cultural Council as well as the Mass. Cultural Council - a state agency which receives support from the National Endowment for the arts; and Franklin County Business Funds For The Arts.

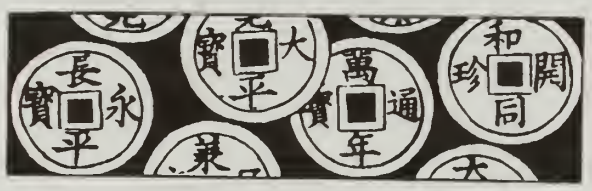
Yours Truly,

Molly Kaynor

If you are interested in helping the school in any way, let me know by filling out one of the short volunteer information forms which I have left for you at both the Wendell and New Salem stores, Post offices, and Libraries, and inside the front door of the school. Thank you!

Molly Kaynor

P.S. Please read my enclosed "Celebrating Diversity" article for more exciting news about the school.



## CELEBRATING DIVERSITY

This year Erin Williams, the program director of The 1794 Meeting House in New Salem, has been working with the school and the Swift River community on "Celebrating Diversity" multi-cultural programming which encourages interdisciplinary cultural experience in the classroom. Thanks to Erin's initiative, and creativity, we have received substantial grants for the program which is produced in collaboration with the Meetinghouse.

Celebrating Diversity has focused so far on the exploration of Japan this year. We've had a rich variety of learning opportunities with this Japan unit, and we've been fortunate to have had so many exceptionally interesting and talented guests. For example; we've enjoyed storytelling visits with Motoko Dworkin, and fish print making workshops and Carp kite making with Lydia Potter and Kerry Verney. Tony Vacca gave an informa-tive and inspiring all school Kotoh drumming demonstration and classroom workshops. Jon Grossman will give a flute playing demonstration as well as calligraphy workshops with his partner Annie Newbold who will also teach Sumie painting.

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# KAREN IDOINE SUPER COMMUTER CURATOR

**KAREN IDOINE JOINS RISD AS CURATOR OF EDNA W. LAWRENCE NATURE LAB**

Providence, RI -- Rhode Island School of Design announces the appointment of Karen Idoine as Curator to the Edna W. Lawrence Nature Lab.

Idoine, resident of Wendell, comes to this position with an extensive background in Biology, Entomology and Horticulture, Most recently, she held the position of Extension Educator at The University O Massachusetts in Amherst, responsible for developing, conducting and evaluating educational programs in horticulture, integrated pest management and biological control for the state-wide Landscape and Nursery program.

Unlike traditional natural history museums, the Nature Lab's collection is a unique resource for RISD students, designed to be handled, touched and examined, By exploring specimens, students can learn about design and the interaction of form and function, the integration of the parts to the whole, and be inspired by the simple elegance of natural patterns.

"I look forward to combining my expertise in natural history and ecology with my love for writing and art history together with the visual and imaginative resources available her at RISD,: state Idoine.

Supported by grant funding, Idoine did research in Columbia S.A. and has traveled in Costa Rica, Mexico, Guatemala and the U.S. With several publications to her credit, Idoine has also written several features on horticulture and related environmental issues for the local media, including the Boston Globe.

## CHASE AWAY THOSE *'WINTER BLUES'* at *The Art Loft*

The **ART LOFT**, a community arts center for children and adults, is pleased to announce that it has received preliminary approval for grant funding from the ***Wendell, Erving, and Northfield Cultural Councils.*** (Final approval is expected by late Feb. '95.) These grants will provide residents, from each of the above towns, the opportunity to take any 4 week Class at the **ART LOFT** for only **$40.00** (regular cost is $75.00), or any Saturday Workshop for only **$15.00** (regular cost is $30.00). These prices include all materials and space is available on a *"first come - first served"* basis.

Chase away those ***"winter blues"*** by trying something new and creative or by sharpening up on some of the artistic talents that you already possess.

At this writing, the **ART LOFT** is gearing up for it's MARCH Classes and Workshops and by the time you read this, classes may already be underway. However, the **ART LOFT** will also be offering classes and workshops for APRIL and MAY, as well, and you may pre-register now.

For more information or to receive a flyer with detailed descriptions of upcoming classes and workshops, please call the **ART LOFT at (508) 544-0223**. *(Flyers can also be picked up around Wendell at the **Library, Town Offices, Post Office, the Country Store, and Wendell Depot.**)*

# LIBRARY NEWS

Thanks to a Wendell connection. the Green Linnet Record Company of Danbury; Connecticut has donated 35 recently released albums on cassettes to the Wendell Free Library. The music is a sampling of traditional sounds from around the world although the bulk is from Ireland.

A sampling follows.

Inti-Illimani, Andadas. (Andean melodies, world rhythm.)
Varitina, Seleniko. (Finnish women's band.)
Conjunto Cespedes, Una Sola Casa. (Music of Cuba: rumba.)
Milladoiro, Casellum Honesti. (Celtic music of Spain.)
Taj Mahal, Out on a Rolling Sea. (Bahamian folk.)
Tarika Sammy, Fanafody. (Madagascar.)
James Keelaghan. My Skies. (Canada.)
Rosalie Sorrels. Be Careful There's a Baby in the House.
The Bothy Band, The Best of...
De Dannan, 1/2 Set in Harlem. (Irish traditional with klezmer influences.)
Wolfstone, Year of the Dog. (Celtic rock band.)

The new tapes along with those donated by the Full Moon Coffeehouse and the 100 or so classical tapes donated by the Forbes Library gives Wendell the beginings of a rather impressive musical collection for a small town library. Our biggest problem has been finding a suitable spot to display them in our sweet but tiny building. Hopefully, new shelves designed for cassettes will be in place at the bottom of the basement stairs by the time this issue of the Post hits the streets.

As always, make your librarians smile by returning all your library materials promptly.

See you there!

Rosie Heidkamp

The **ART LOFT**, is a completely equipped professional studio, conveniently located at 7 Maple Avenue in Erving, just off Rt. 2. Instructors, are working professional artists, who are experts in their field. They hail from all over the Pioneer Valley and the **ART LOFT** takes great pleasure in bringing you their unique talents, all under one roof.

The following is a brief listing of classes and workshops for March and April:

**MARCH**

| *Classes* | *Saturday Workshops* |
|---|---|
| PRE - SCHOOL ART PROGRAM | NATIVE BEADWORK *Mar.4th* |
| WED. AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM | PAPER MARBLING *Mar.11th* |
| CLAY(Ceramic Handbuilding) | JEWELRY MAKING *Mar. 18th* (Fimo Clay) |
| OIL PAINTING | DRAWING *Mar. 25th* |
| PHOTOGRAPHY | |
| PRINTMAKING ( Etching) | |
| WATERCOLORS | |

**APRIL**

| *Classes* | *Saturday Workshops* |
|---|---|
| PRE - SCHOOL ART PROGRAM | DRAWING *Apr. 22nd* |
| WED. AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM | NATIVE BEADWORK *Apr. 29th* |
| PRINTMAKING (Etching) | CANDLEMAKING *Apr. 29th* |
| PUPPETS | |
| STONE CARVING | |
| WOOD CARVING | |
| BASKETMAKING | |
| PAPER MACHE' (Amazing Mache') | |

# Wendell Weather 94/95

| | JUNE | JULY | AUG |
|---|---|---|---|
| Avg H Temp.(*) | 77(77) | 82(83) | 76(78) |
| Avg L Temp. | 56(53) | 63(58) | 55(58) |
| Mean Temp | 66.6 | 72.4 | 66.0 |
| Avg Mean(88-93) | 65.8 | 70.1 | 68.4 |
| Rain(") | 1.4 | 8.55 | 5.5 |

The summer was close to normal for temperatures with July being slightly warmer than average and August cooler. The 8.55" of rain in July was the most in that month so far. On July 7, 3.6" of rain fell in 2 hours during a severe thunderstorm.

| | SEPT | OCT | NOV |
|---|---|---|---|
| Avg H Temp(*) | 68(70) | 60(63) | 52(48) |
| Avg L Temp. | 49(47) | 37(40) | 31(28) |
| Mean Temp | 58.4 | 48.4 | 42.1 |
| Avg Mean(88-93) | 58.3 | 51.6 | 40.3 |
| Rain(") | 4.35 | 1.35 | 2.9 |
| Snow(") | | | 5.0 |

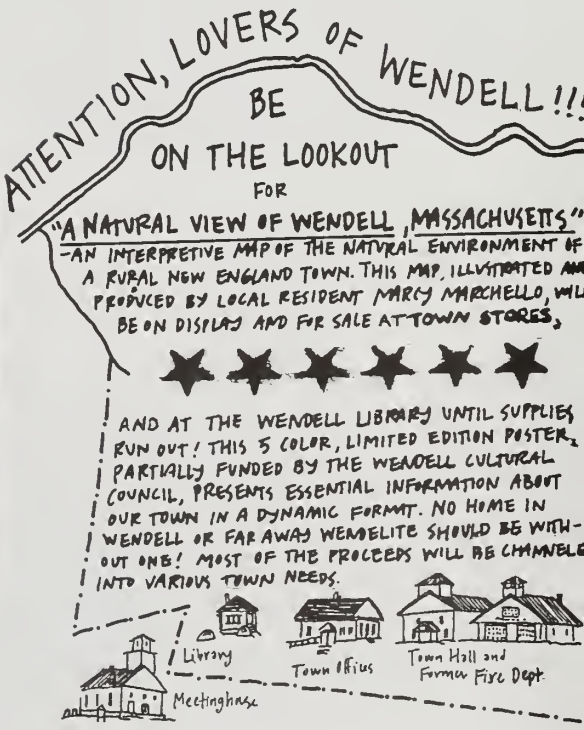
October was cool and dry, in fact the dryest I have on record. November also had the least amount of rainfall but the most snowfall, hardly a precursor to the relatively snowless winter. My first frost was on October 3, two weeks later than last year.

| | DEC | JAN 1995 |
|---|---|---|
| Avg H Temp.(*) | 41(35) | 36(33) |
| Avg L Temp. | 22(16) | 21(14) |
| Mean Temp | 31.0 | 28.8 |
| Avg Mean(88-93) | 25.1 | 23.2 |
| Rain(") | 2.6 | 2.53 |
| Snow(") | 4.5 | 10.0 |

* - Average H and L temperatures for the period 1988 - 1993

December and January were milder than average with mean temperatures almost 6° above normal. Jan 95 averaged almost 15° warmer than Jan 94. The average high was 11° warmer and the average low was 19° warmer!

Bill Lafley



# Notes From The State Forest

As of this writing our winter just arrived with a tough northeaster; a foot of snow, zero degrees, and a biting wind. All in one package. (The little cabin in the woods moves and creaks with this wind . . . )

Very day after the storm the skiers, snowmobilers and some snow-shoers were all out in fair number. Very few children out for sledding, tho. I think the wind chill was just too much – a smart move by parents to keep the children out of it.

A rerouting of the Metacomet-Monadnock Trail has been accomplished through the efforts of A.M.C. members and volunteers led by Pat Fletcher of Westfield. The new section comes up from North Leverett, goes over Diamond Match Ridge, skirts Catamount Swamp, joins Hemmenway Road, crosses Montague Road and Carlton Roads and comes over to the park the west side of Ruggles Pond. Some nice bog bridging was done at the south of Ruggles near Carlton Road. This section of trail is now lifted off travelled roads and put onto more scenic and adventure-some paths. Remember the markings: one white paint mark means straight ahead, two marks over and under mean, look for change in direction.

19195 is the 25th anniversary of Earth Day! April 22 I'm told. We are holding a trails walk/clean-up the following Saturday which is when members of the Chevy GMC Truck Club will also be on hand for their annual volunteering. If its fair weather and you want to come for a spring hike, please show up at Ruggles Pond at 10:00 a.m. Sturdy footwear and clothing. If anyone has some brush cutting tools, bring them. We have a few here.

Remember that date, then, the 29th of April, 10:00 a.m. Thank you.

Let me close with this lovely two-line poem by Frost:

The old dog barks backward through the years.
I can remember when he was a pup.

H. Stowell

# An Open Letter To The Sawmill River Community

Rebuilding the broken-down dam at the Book Mil on the Sawmill River in Montague is now properly an issue before the Valley Community. The discussion by several dozen participants at the public forum last November 4 was civil and candid, as urged by Dr. Allen Ross, author of the proposal to rebuild the dam for hydropower generation. Common to the rhetoric of the project's proposers and those participants favoring it was the completely human-centered viewpoint with which our culture usually addresses the natural world - as if it were a thing merely - and of practical interest mainly. Those opposed to rebuilding spoke up as well, of a lost history and vanished culture deemed not worth preserving. This extinction, and others, have been huge losses to the watershed as a living entity, leaving it truly impoverished. Its remaining millions of unseen, unnoticed beings seem mostly not of compelling interest to humans. The point not made at the forum was that this battered and subdued, but still alive ecosystem is fulfilling its own destiny- one that may be distinctly different from that of the people who live in it just now.

The nub of the issue is how we are to make our electricity. It is clearly better for the planet to generate one's power at the site where it will be used, and from that partial perspective this scheme is entirely praiseworthy. Electricity from the James Bay project, on the other hand, is destroying a vast ecosystem, including its people, beyond our sight and mind and attention - we don't witness it, therefore we feel as if it's not happening. Some of out power is nuclear-made, and its waste products are forever sterilizing growing parcels of land. We're all paying for that destruction, and all we do is bitch about our electric bills. We're glad to see an initiative, coded into law, that seems to turn the tables on the mass power generators. We speak about and engage in conservation; even the energy industry is on that bandwagon. But in this densely populated state, one is likely to be hooted at for saying that the true crux of the issue is Reduction of Demand. Far beyond our real needs, we're hooked on electricity; not for nothing is it called "juice."

But to return to the point not made at the forum. Perhaps the caring and enlightened people of the watershed do not articulate (even to themselves) their awareness of the interconnectedness of all the beings in the great assembly simply because we don't have the language in place, her, now, in this village, in this valley. Henry Beston said it perfectly: "They are not brethren, they are not underlings; they are other nations, caught with ourselves in the net of life and time, fellow prisoners in the splendor and travail of the earth." All of the thousands of species in this watershed are each one a nation; this word gives back some measure of respect and dignity to our "fellow prisoners." This notion, that all life is one, is like a returning salmon, struggling upstream against great obstacles. Or maybe it is like the American eel, born far at sea, coming in its youth to take up residence in the river for who knows how long before it goes back to its birthplace to breed and complete its cycle? Likewise, it is feared by some and hoped by others that a new dam would exclude lampreys from the river. This jawless fish is an native a member of the river community as the trout, or the dace. Where does lamprey fit in the larger web? When they come as adults up the river, it is with one purpose only - to reproduce their kind. They do not feel on trout, or any fish; indeed they cannot. They mate and spawn and die, having ceased preying on other fish before they got here. How arrogant to condemn a species as worthy of extirpation for doing what evolution fitted it to do. We may indeed succeed in civilizing the salmon and the eel and the lamprey into extinction, but the truth of the interconnectedness of all life will survive even our own self-extinction, should that be the result of our blind belief that we can increase human weight on the earth without limit.

However, thus far there is no way to prevent this licensing application from going along. Due process. There is announced opposition by state and federal wildlife agencies; good, but maybe insufficient against the huge clout of those servicing our ever-growing demand. Reasonable people feel that reasonable compromise solutions for the known biological conflicts are satisfactory, available and ( it is hoped ) non traumatic for the species involved. We do not know. We await reports and studies. It will be protested that this rhetoric is excessive, exaggerated, that this proposal's problems are trivial seen against Arctic oil spills, the burning of the rainforests, the destruction of the atmosphere and poisoning of the waters - as if those were all going on elsewhere! Some will say that this dam project is Real Restoration - a strange notion considering how weak a voice the river "nations" have in the deliberations over their fate. We stand in our backyards, out in nature, perhaps hearing the geese or scenting wet leaves, feeling the season roll...This earth is all we've got Let your gorge rise a bit. Stand for what you stand on.

Bob Ellis
Millers River Watershed

BOB ELLIS
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# Ooph! Grunt! The Last Stone Is Laid.

"More fun than I thought it would be," commented Ria Windcaller after several hours of removing and resetting huge stones in a jumbled old wall. "I may be back for more."

She didn't happen to make it back, but for many of the 45 people who helped rebuild the stone wall in front of the new town garage said the same about the enjoyableness of it. Stone work, an art form involving unique shapes and a physical workout due to the weight, does satisfy. Her comment didn't surprise me.

But I was surprised at the delight the Stone Wall Project gave a couple of dozen of us when a class of Swift River School 4th graders got a chance to build some wall for the town of Wendell.

The kids had already read a book their teacher, Chris Wings, had found for them in the Wendell Library . . . one that revealed the mystique and history of the craft through the example of one inspired pioneer/farmer. So they knew where some of our stone walls came from, and a little about the building of a good, lasting wall.

Sitting on the grass in the sun, they seemed interested to know that many New England fields still produce a crop of stones each year, as frost works them up from below the reach of the plow. Also that the Indians built some of New England's walls. . . not for fences or boundaries but for directional markers or sacred site markers. Since the Powling farm might have been one of the early ones in Wendell, we estimated the wall beside us might be 200 years old, built probably by the farmer himself, but also possibly by roving wallbuilders for hire. For what it's worth, it has some huge stones, some of which took me and a helper almost an hour to rotate, or move a few feet, or flip.

Then this gang of roving wallbuilders got to work. They swarmed over the wall, some staggering with rocks almost as heavy as themselves. Teachers, aides, and chaperones caught the fever and helped move a ton or more of stones into place on the wall. Amid the chatter, I heard a child say to a friend, "If I get a job, I'm going to be a mason!" A few put in rocks they had brought from home, giving them a lasting physical connection with the wall. When the supply of stones reserved for the class was gone, some children went looking for others, and found them–large ones. Soon we were demonstrating how pry bars are used by two people to maneuver bigger stones into position, and how to ramp or flip them onto the wall. I split a stone with a sledgehammer. The 4th graders seemed to find it all fascinating.

Under them the job was finished. In the days and weeks before, adult crews ranging from two to five members had shown up to lever the base stones into position and set smaller ones on the wall, usually with brute strength. I was surprised (and a little threatened!) at how quickly they picked up the knack. .

Most of the 15 cu. yd. of stone added to the wall were contributed by the generosity of Anne Marie Meltzer. Gloria Kegeles and Steve Broll contributed several pickup loads, too. This couple also contributed photography, and Steve did a stint of work on the wall, as well. Peter Rooney was the first to help, then Tony Diemand, Tom Sullivan, Apollo Compagnone, John Cremins, Ken Frank, Sam Gloyd, Erik von Ranson, Ria Windcaller, and Ed Boland wielded the pry bar. Ray Allis, Susan DunLany, Michael Award, Paul Wanta, Laura Botkin, Dale Kowacki, Eva Kowacki-Botkin (the youngest to actually handle stone), Chris Wings, Sarah Kohler, Kathy White, Pat Woessner, Vic Scutari, and Paloma laid stones. Here are the stonemason apprentices from Chris' class: Jonathan Peyster, Michael Skillicorn, Tim Columbia, Vic Scutari, Jr., Shae Nakai, Dustin Kohler, Cara Chadbourne, Eliza Hare, Christa Sterbinsky, Jenni White, Eric Dew, Ashley Manley, Tegan Mannino, Travis Boland, Audrey Broll, Lana Broll, Aliya Fox and Josh Young.

I'd like to thank Ina Phelps, the Selectboard (especially) Ted Lewis), Danny Bacigalupo, Regina Curtis and Bob Ellis for their help in getting the project off the ground, as well as John Koehler and Peter Rooney for offering tools and equipment, plus the following providers of refreshments: Laura Doughty, Susan DunLany, Doe Valley Deli and Everett Ricketts. Bob Leet, Ingrid and George gave moral support by stopping by but not actually donning gloves. Moral support in this controversial and sometimes lonely project was greatly appreciated!

Strange though it may sound, I also owe a debt of gratitude to those who opposed the project. They taught me not to automatically expect gratitude for offering much work for little pay, and that it's important to touch bases thoroughly with all boards and commissions at the outset. Their concerns helped me modify the plan, which was overly ambitious, and the result was a better undertaking. For the record, about two hours of town equipment operation went into the wall rebuilding project.

The wall stands as a monument to Wendell (and New Salem) people's love of rocks and history and beauty. . . and the good time we had rebuilding it. I'm grateful to folks for catching the spirit of the project and rallying to it!

Jonathan von Ranson

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# C.P.R. course offered

A course in cardiopulmonary resuscitation ( CPR) which also covers management of a foreign body airway obstruction (choking) will be offered in two evening classes: one covers adults and one covers children and infants. Participants are encouraged to register for both classes, but may elect to take just one. The classes present information and demonstrations by way of videotape, class discussion about available local emergency care and how to access it on a timely basis, and hands-on practice with mannequins and coaching by instructors. There is no longer a written exam to take unless you are a healthcare provider. A handbook is given out and may be obtained ahead of time for participants who wish to become familiar with the information before the class. People who have friends or family members with cardiac history or high risk of heart attack are especially encouraged to join us, as this skill may well increase their survival of a cardiac event.

WHEN: Wednesday March 15 (adults)
Wednesday March 22 (children and infants)
WHERE : Wendell Senior Center
COST: $10 for both classes
TO REGISTER: Call Sarah at 544 -8695 by March 8

# Health Education for Children

Swift River School is presently developing a comprehensive health education curriculum for pre-kindergarten through grade 6 students as part of a three year grant. Ideas from community members and parents are needed and welcome. Content areas include personal health and fitness, mental and emotional health, injury prevention, disease prevention and control, family life, consumer health, environmental health, nutrition, and substance use and prevention.

PLEASE JOIN US at Swift River School's library on Wednesday March 1 from 7-8:30 p.m. (snow date March 8) to share your ideas for student objectives in these areas at various grade levels. We hope to focus on empowering students to make informed, healthy decisions both personally and socially.

Refreshments will be available and childcare can be provided by reserving a space by February 27 - call Nancy or Debbie at 544-6926.

## Athol Memorial Hospital

Hospice is one of the newest programs established by athol Memorial Hospital through its home health agency, Community Health Service. Wendell is among the towns served.

For many terminally ill patients, the comfort of home is the best medicine. Being in a familiar setting, surrounded by the love and support of family and friend, can ease this difficult time. In some locations, a Hospice is a separate building that provides a home-like atmosphere, but in the case of The Hospice of Community Health Service, there is no Hospice building as such. Rather, Hospice is a concept that is brought to the home of the individual patient.

Hospice Coordinator Michaeleen Barcomb, RN, announced recently that the Hospice has obtained its license from the Massachusetts Dept. of Public Health and certification from the Health Care Finance Admin. of the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services for Medicare recipients.

Hospice is a program of medical, psychosocial, emotional, spiritual and support services dedicated to preserving dignity, integrity and comfort. A Hospice patient and his loved ones know that death is near; the program focuses on the patient's comfort and well-being rather than on the cure of disease. this option can bring peace of mind, and relative freedom from fear and other emotional stress, to the patient and caregivers.

Patient who chooses Hospice are those with illness for which cure is considered unlikely, usually individuals with an estimated life expectancy of six months or less. For Hospice patients, enhancing the quality of remaining life is the main concern. If new treatments or medicines become available, the patient and family may leave the Hospice program to pursue them.

Hospice patients are aware of their prognosis and consent to the goals of

Hospice care. They have a physician who works with the Hospice team and they have the support of a caretaker (a close friend or relative) who can help provide care.

Hospice is a patient elected benefit. Either the physician, the family or friends, hospital staff or the patient can initiate the contact, but the patient, or in some cases his or her primary caretaker, is responsible for choosing the service. The Patient's physician (who may or may not be on the medical staff of Athol Memorial Hospital) and the Hospice team work with the family and patient to decide if the referral is appropriate.

Eligibility for Hospice care does not necessarily depend on ability to pay for these services. The hospice staff will help patients and family members determine which resources may be appropriate for a given situation,m including government or private insurance programs.

to find out more about Hospice, interested people may call the hospice coordinator at Community Health Service (249-5366).

## The FELDENKRAIS METHOD® Comes to Wendell

Do you ever have pain in your back; or a shoulder or knee? Does your hip sometimes "go out" on you? Or maybe you sometimes just ache all over?

When we're in pain we often don't understand why. We search our brains trying to figure out how we might have hurt ourselves. Sometimes we accept our aches and pains as old friends we need to learn to live with. Or we believe it is "just because we are getting old." Did it ever occur to you that these pains could be caused by the way we organize ourselves when we move?

Practitioners of the FELDENKRAIS METHOD believe that we all develop habitual patterns of movement, both helpful and not so helpful, that become involuntary over the years. These habits are there when we walk or get up from a chair or dance or play a musical instrument or simply whenever we move—including when we breathe. Somatic education, the belief that we can learn to change our habits—not by looking to someone outside ourselves to "fix" us, but by looking inside ourselves for new options—is what the Feldenkrais Method is all about.

The Feldenkrais Method was created when Moshe Feldenkrais, an Israeli physicist and judo master, figured out a way to regain full use of his injured knees without risking surgery. He understood that his knees were damaged, but became convinced that he could learn to organize his movement around the injuries. He believed in the power of the brain to circumvent many physical problems—to learn new ways of organization. After living in Paris for a number of years working in the Curies' nuclear physics lab and earning the first black belt in judo ever awarded to a European, then escaping to England during World War II and publishing his first book on movement *Body and Mature Behavior,* Feldenkrais returned to Israel. There he spent thirty years developing his method. He observed that when a person felt good about her/himself, that is, when a person's movement was fluid and naturally graceful, then that person was free to develop her/his human potential to the maximum.

Although movement formed the core of his method, Feldenkrais was often quoted as saying, "What I am after isn't flexible bodies but flexible brains. What I am after is to restore each person to their human dignity." He believed that a world full of people who felt good in their bodies would be a world full of people who felt good in their whole selves, and that such a world had the potential to be a better world. And he believed every person could improve—and indeed he worked with severely disabled children as well as world famous musicians and of course with a lot of us pretty normal folks, young and old—as Feldenkrais practitioners continue to do today.

Feldenkrais brought his method to the United States in the late seventies, first offering a training program in San Francisco and again, in the early eighties, in Amherst at Hampshire College. Feldenkrais himself died shortly after the Amherst training, but thanks to those early students, there are now Feldenkrais practitioners and training programs all over the world—Europe, Latin America, Australia, many US cities and towns. And now Wendell has its very own practitioner in Anne Perkins who recently completed the Chicago Professional Training Program led by Gaby Yaron, one of Feldenkrais' original Israeli students.

The Feldenkrais Method is practiced in two forms. In private FUNCTIONAL INTEGRATION® lessons a person typically lies fully clothed on a low massage table and the lesson is communicated through slow gentle touch and movement. In group AWARENESS THROUGH MOVEMENT® classes participants generally lie on the floor and are verbally guided through a series of gentle movements during which they are asked to observe themselves and experiment with different ways of moving and being.

Anne first learned about Feldenkrais work from her mother Rachael who took classes after she had retired and moved to San Francisco. She had aches and pains that she attributed to old age—only to discover that they were caused by habitual movement patterns. Taking Feldenkrais classes became the joy of her life and she continued to learn new ways to move for the rest of her life. Anthropologist Margaret Mead confirmed Rachael's experience in her statement, "Feldenkrais' major contribution is his method of keeping people functioning and vital. . .I'd like to see this man's work available for the older people of this country immediately. We're condemning millions of old people to a deteriorated old age that's not necessary."

Anne has been teaching the Wendell *Awareness Through Movement* classes to people of all ages for over two years now. Here is what two of the participants have to say about their experience:

> Karen Traub: "I really love Anne's class. After just a few lessons I noticed my posture has improved. I feel the benefits of Feldenkrais both in my life and in my work as an acupressurist."
>
> Kate Nelson:"Since childhood I have had a chronic aching in my hip and leg, and have tried lots of different bodywork. Feldenkrais has been a major factor in improving that problem. In other bodywork approaches, the practitioner has given me temporary relief, but Feldenkrais gives me a growing awareness of how I move my body. So, on a daily basis, I can effect change in my habitual movements and bring lasting relief. For me, Feldenkrais is an especially pleasurable experience, and I think that's a major reason it is so effective."

For those of you who wish to learn more about the method, Moshe Feldenkrais wrote a number of books which can be obtained through inter-library loan at the Wendell Library. The most popular is *Awareness Through Movement* which describes the method and outlines several lessons. Anne's favorite is one of Feldenkrais' last books entitled *The Elusive Obvious.* The library has also purchased a set of self-directed *Awareness Through Movement* audio cassettes entitled*The Embodied Life,* which are especially beneficial to those who have taken a class series.

Anne gives private lessons in her Wendell home for $20 to $40 (sliding scale) and in an accessible office in downtown Northampton for $35 to $50. She teaches group classes at the Wendell Senior Center on Thursdays at 9:30AM and again at 5:00PM. She also teaches at the YMCA in Greenfield on Wednesdays at 5:30PM and in Northampton on Tuesdays at 6:00PM. Everyone is welcome. Classes cost $10 each or $75.00 for a series of eight. The first Wendell class a person attends is always free—so you can come experience the work—and Senior Citizens pay half price. One complimentary private lesson is given to each person who pays for a series of classes. There are many options for those who wish to benefit from the Feldenkrais Method. Call Anne at 544-6385 for more information.

by Anne Perkins and Gloria Kegeles

Feldenkrais®, Functional Integration®, and Awareness Through Movement® are Registered Service Marks of The Feldenkrais Guild®

**Watch the Wendell Thursday morning Feldenkrais class featured on Channel 40 News sometime after it is taped on March 2!**

# Wendell Bids Farwell To Kate & Don & Family

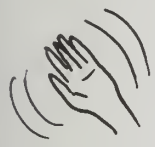
This month, Wendell has experienced the departure of master herbalist Kate Gilday..Although I met Kate only recently, I have heard much about her talents and know that she leaves behind many stories of love and healing.

Last Fall I was referred to Kate by several local people when I was seeding natural treatment for an allergic condition suffered by my daughter. She welcomed us into her home for the consultation and served us herbal tea, fresh cranberries and apple cider as we spoke. We were immediately enchanted and felt that we were in the hands of a true healer! As Kate dispensed several helpful herbal remedies, recipes and dietary advice, the healing interaction was enhanced by her radiant kindness and astonishing generosity of spirit. Kate's method is wonderful and inspiring. I especially appreciatedthe fact that she initiates direct involvement in the process of healing. Some of the remedies required home preparation which my daughter and I did together according to Kate's instructions. This experience was a refreshing change from passively receiving ready-made products and created a sense of responsibility in the healing. This hands-on approach also gives one a direct experiencee of the powers and properties of the herbs. Besides, it was fun! I am truly thankful to have met such a special healer.

When I first learned that Kate and her family would soon be leaving the area I was sad, but now I feel happy to think of her spreading out and sowing seeds of wisdom and healing in the deep wilderness of the Adirondacks. Fortunately, she will be returning to teach workshops in the region periodically.

To quote fellow herbalist Kuumba, "Kate has been like an angel among us, always bringing out the best in everyone." From myself and the Wendell Post, farewell and best wishes to Kate and to Don, Ananda and Sean. We will miss you.

Beth McConnell



# Women's Health

Contact: Ellen Koteen or Anne Perkins 586-2016
Breast Health Services Expanded

The Breast Health Project (BHP) of the Family Planning Council of Western Massachusetts is expanding its free diagnostic services for un- and underinsured women to include case management. Currently, the Project provides eligible women with free medical exams, clinical breast exams, pelvic exams, support groups, and referrals for free colpocscopies, and free mammograms. Under the new arrangement, a part-time case manager will also assist BHP clients in gaining access to cancer support services, entitlement programs and other health services. For information about the Project or to schedule an appointment, call 586-2539. Clinics are held in Amherst, Belchertown, Greenfield and Northampton.

The Family Planning Council's Breast Health Project provides free medical and case management services to un- and under-insured women who are over the age of 40 and younger women with a direct family history of breast cancer. Funds for the new case management component of the Project were made available through a grant from the Nan and Mathilda Heydt Fund and the Jessie B. Cox Charitable Trust of the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts.

Karen Traub M.Ed., I.A.P.
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Anne Perkins
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Wendell, MA 01364-9771
(508) 544-6385 or (413) 586-1085

Reduce Pain and Stress while Improving Joy and Freedom

An eight week series of Feldenkrais® Awareness Through Movement® classes will be offered in Greenfield and Wendell beginning March 2. Greenfield classes are on Wednesdays at 5:30PM at the Community YMCA and Wendell classes are on Tursdays at 9:30AM and agin at 5:00PM at the Wendell Senior Center. Participants will learn to let go of patterns of tension and to allow the muscles to relax naturally, creating a sense of well being after every session. During each one hour class individuals are guided through a sequence of movements in which they learn to recognize some of their habitual patterns and some options for new ways to move. Series participants are also offered one hands-on session to deepen their understanding. Classes can benefit people of all ages and abilities. Dress comfortably and bring a mat or small blanket. For more information call Anne Perkins at (508) 544-6385 or (413) 586-1085.

# Rt 2 Discussion Renewed

**RT2 DISCUSSION RENEWED: ENVIRONMENTAL COALITION MEETS TO REVIEW PROPOSAL**

**Over the past two years discussions about improving state Rt2 have once again become more active. Several new and some old plans have come under consideration, and some old players and new are participating in the renewed dialogue. For now the talk has been consolidated in a proposal forwarded by a February 7th letter from the Transportation Subcommittee and supported by the full Franklin County Planning Board. The focus of the proposal is a plan to make safety improvements to the section of the highway, beginning at the undivided road in Philipston travelling west to the Erving town line.**

**While the original proposal dealt with this limited section and planning monies were written into the FY 95 Transportation Bond by the state legislature, many of the interested parties are concerned that such planned improvements would significantly effect other sections of the highway. In a conversation with Dennis Rindone, Transportation Subcommittee Chair and Erving Selectman, he spoke to this concern,**

> **"The safety improvement study is a place to start looking at Rt2 issues. Such a study could then indicate and direct the need for further study of the Philipston to Greenfield corridor and its regional impacts."**

**The recent letter he signed along with the Franklin County Planning Board Chair reflects this intention. The letter "strongly support[s] a feasibility study to identify areas where climbing lanes could be added to improve safety." There is a fairly wide consensus that such a project be undertaken in the near future.**

**If however the plans include consideration of widening this segment to a four lane divided highway the letter goes on to insist on the following,**

> **"The study area should be expanded to encompass the stretch from Philipston to Greenfield, MA (I-91) with a view towards studying the regional impacts along the entire segment as they relate to traffic volumes, congestion, safety, transportation alternatives, and environmental and economic development impacts."**

**At a November 16, 1994 County Planning Board meeting many others supported the idea of expanding the study if the study was to include widening the road up to the Erving town line. Alexandra Dawson of the RT2 Environmental Coalition, suggested that if widening the road were to be considered, "failing to extend the study to Greenfield would be a form of pornographic transportation planning." Running a four-lane highway up to The Erving town line would inevitably put pressure on the region to find a solution to the more complicated problem of improving the road through the Erving section of the highway. Other participants shared that concern at the November meeting and a**

similar meeting held later in Athol. That pressure includes a mixture of belief by some parties that regional economic development depends on an upgraded highway, the welfare of Erving Center will be impacted by changes in the road, and reconsideration of a Wendell State Forest route might still be a feasible solution to the problem.

The RT2 Environmental Coalition met on February 6th to review the recent discussion about a new Rt2 study. Seven of the eight groups that are represented in the Coalition attended this meeting. Four general areas of concern emerged from several hours of talk. They were expressed Coalition member, Michael Idoine, as follows:

1. That the coalition is ready and committed to assist design studies and give political support to safety improvements from Philipston to Greenfield.
2. That any consideration of highway construction beyond safety improvements (i.e. widening the roadway) would require a study of the regional impacts (extending the study to the Rt2/I-91 intersection) as outlined in the February 7th letter of the Franklin County Planning Board.
3. That any expanded study shall acknowledge the October 1987 decision of Transportation Secretary, Frederick Salvucci that the so-named South Bank Alignment would be prohibited from highway development pursuant to the Federal Highway Act.
4. That serious consideration be given to the management of the public conversation of this issue by employing a mediator trained in facilitating meetings that involve these kinds of subject matter.

Citizens who are interested in helping to resolve the important issues involved in this study should contact Dennis Rindone through the Franklin County Planning Board [413/774-3168] or the RT2 Environmental Coalition through Michael Idoine [508/544-2623].

Submitted by Michael Idoine

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# Selectboard Minutes

Wendell Selectboard Meeting January 3, 1995 - Minutes - Meeting convened at 7:00 p.m. All Board members were present.

Annie Hartjens, Town Clerk, was to meet with the Board but she called to reschedule her appointment to January 10,1995.

Board members decided to review all Salt Shed Engineering Bids during the week and make a decision at their next meeting. The three bids received were:

Dufresne-Henry - $5,200 plus alternative costs.
Design Group Inc. - $19,480.
Whitman and Bingham Associates - $6,980.

The Board will write to thank Bob Marsh for his informative letter regarding water laboratory tests.

The Board will review bids on the Wendell Depot culvert repairs.

Design Group, Inc. - $2,050.
Whitman and Bingham Assoc. - $1,820.

A Public Meeting is scheduled for Jan 25, 1995 at 7:00p.m. at the Fisher Hill School in Orange. It will introduce the Department of Environmental Management's new program entitled Guidelines for Operations and Land Stewardship and will include a review of 8 State Forests including Wendell's.

A workshop series on Personnel Administration for Small Towns will be held on Feb. 10, March 17, and April 7. They are sponsored by STAM and funded through a Municipal Incentive Grant.

Mass Highway Department has notified all towns that all construction contracts which receive Federal Aid must have Plans, Specifications and Estimates prepared in metric units.

A discussion of the needs for the town which might be developed through next year's Community Development Block Grant took place. A need for more "dry hydrants" was mentioned.

The Board voted to exclude Christine Ewell from the Conflict of Interest clause for municipal workers. Ms. Ewell is on the Swift River School Board and will be working as a substitute Teacher's Aide. The Board discussed the rules and regulations pertaining to Public Records and the dispersment of same. A request for such records must be in writing, there will be a waiting period of ten days to allow time for the office help to make copies and there will be a fee of $.20 per copy.

*The Acupressure Collaborative of Greenfield*

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- *Immune System*
- *Arthritis*
- *Headaches*
- *Pain*
- *Fertility*

*And many other conditions.*

*Sylvia Diaz (413) 339-4902*

*Karen Traub (508) 544-7643*

There will be a meeting of the DEM Gold Program on Wed. Jan. 25, 1995 in Orange, Ma. Anne Zak intends toattend.

The Wendell contingent of the AD HOC will meet in the Wendell Town Offices on Jan. 25,1995. Ted Lewis will attend.

The Ad Hoc meeting will be held on Jan. 26, 1995 at the Swift River School. Ted Lewis, Regina Curtis and Michael Idoine will attend.

Lee Trousdale, Chairman of the Finance Committee, submitted a final draft of a request for money owed by the Town of New Salem for bookkeeping errors made in the past. Board members read and approved it.

A discussion of the 1996 Budget took place and the following needs capital requests were mentioned:

Electricity for Town Offices
Paint for Town Buildings
Town Common Design and Improvements ( 3 year plan of $5,ooo. first year, $10,000. second year and $15,000. third year - A total of $30,000.).
A $2500. item for Office Equipment.

Anne Zak reported that Mason Phelps had informed the Board that the Valley Land Fund recently included Wendell and Montague in their group and they intend to provide a town map (1000ft to 1 inch) of all properties in town and theiraquifers.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.
Respectfully submitted
Elizabeth Scully
Selectboard Clerk

Wendell Selectboard Meeting January 10
The meeting convened at 7:00 p.m. Selectboard members present were: Anne Zak, Margo Culley, Ted Lewis. Also present were Regina Curtis, Fran Zera and Elizabeth Scully.
Warrants were signed and correspondence reviewed.

Martina Carroll, a member of the Board of Health, attended the meeting to discuss the sanitary condition (or lack there of) of the town hall kitchen facilities after having been rented by the public. A comprehensive check list of BoH cleanliness standards will be given to all future renters. Forfeiture of the cleaning deposit will be the result of failure to comply with these regulations. The Selectboard raised the cleaning deposit from $15.00 to $25.00 to underline the need for better attention to detail in all areas of the town hall including the kitchen and the stage.

*Lynne C. Davis, M.A., L.S.W.*
*Individual and Couples Counseling*

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*Wendell (508)544-2067* *Amherst (413)256-1100*

# Select Board Minutes continued...

The Board accepted the Highway Department recommendation of Dufresne-Henry for the Salt Shed Engineering Bid and also for the Wendell Depot Road culvert.

Board members signed a letter of thanks to Bob Marsh.

Jean Forward is scheduled to meet with the Board on Tues. January 17, 1995 at 7:00p.m. to discuss the feasibility of accepting the Koehler house as an historical site. As a representative of the Wendell Historical Society, Ms. Forward will research grant possibilities to fund this endeavor.

Ann Hartjens will meet with the Board at 7:30p.m. on

Tues. January 17, 1995.

There will be a meeting on Jan. 18, 1995 from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. at the 8th floor Conference Roomof the Shawmut Bank at 1 Federal St. in Boston.

The request bythe Hardly Able Club to have Cooleyville Rd. plowed must be denied. There is no money budgeted for the extensive road bed and culvert repair needed to make plowing that section of the road possible. An Article will be put on the Warrant of the Annual Town Meeting to either discontinue the road or to raise money to fix it.

Regina Curtis will request the MDC Watershed Transportation Task Force to checkon the number of trucks going past the Quabbin.

A Public Discussion of Route 2 is scheduled for Jan. 12, 1995 at 7:00p.m. at the Athol Town Hall.

Board members agreed to jointhe CDC again this year.

There is a meeting of the Local Partnership Program in Gardner on 1-11-95. Ms. Curtis will attend.

A STAR meeting is scheduled for 1-12-95 at 7:30p.m. Ms. Zak will attend.

An AD Hoc Committee meeting is scheduled for 1-12-95. Ted Lewis will attend.

The DEpartment of Environmental Management has scheduled a Public Meeting for 1-25-95 at 7:00p.m. It will include a review of 8 State Forests including Wendell's. Margo Culley

Wendell Selectboard Meeting January 17, 1995 - Minutes -

The meeting convened at 7:00p.m.Board members present were: Margo Culley, Anne Zak, Ted Lewis. Also present were Doug Tanner and Fran Zera, Reporters, and Elizabeth Scully, Clerk.

Jean Forward, Chair of the Historical Commission, attended the meeting to discuss the Koehler house. Since the house must be taken down, removed and reconstructed on a new site, Board members agreed the cost would be prohibitive. The amount of money the Town is likely to receive through grants would not cover the expense. Ms. Forward will speak with Mr. Jerry Eide, also a member of the Historical Commission, for his in-put and will research the grants further. The Selectmen and Ms. Forward agreed it might better serve the town to use the grant funds to refurbish buildings already owned by the town and in dire need of work.

Anna Hartjens, Wendell Town Clerk, attended the meeting to discuss the new Motor Voter Computer System soon to be installed in Town. Ms Hartjens and Ellen Trousdale, her assistant, will attend a meeting in Weston, Ma. Ms. Hartjens will schedule a meeting with Sally Woster from the Burough of Vital Statistics regarding Wendell's 1992 vital statistics.

Ms Hartjens has decided not to relinguish her position of Town Clerk at this time.

Regina Curtis will send a copy of the DB contract with the Town of Wendell which he requested.

Elizabeth Scully will write to Priscilla Wise re debris on her property.

Art Johnson was to attend the meeting to discuss transportation for school children on Jennison Rd. He was unable to attend, however Superintendent Labinski informed the Board he would have the Swift River School children transported in a four wheel drive vehicle.

Board members signed a letter of thanks to the staff of Lake Grove School for the children's prompt attention to removing snow from town buildings as they had promised to do.

Ted Lewis signed a form designating Regina Curtis as the one to research and determine that the consultant hiring phase of the Local Partnership Program will have no negative impact on the environment.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00p.m.
Respectively submitted
Elizabeth Scully
Selectboard Clerk

Wendell Selectboard Meeting January 24, 1995 - Minutes -

The meeting convened at 7:00 p.m. Members present: Anne Zak and Ted Lewis. Margo Culley was ill and unable to attend. Also present were: Regina Curtis, Doug Turner and Elizabeth Scully. Minutes were read and approved.

A letter regarding STIP funds was reviewed. STIP monies will not go only to the city of Boston.

Minutes were read and approved and correspondence was reviewed.

A letter was received from the Town of Montague proposing that no DB trucks use the roads before 8:30 a.m., between the hours of noon and 1:00p.m. and at 4:30 p.m. because of poor weather conditions and the transporting of school children. A copy of the letter was sent to Dean Bennett.

Ted Lewis signed the contract with FCRHA for the final rehab. money.

Harry Williston,Wendell Road Commissioner, attended the meeting to inform the Board of new regulations which require drug testing for all HIghway Workers. He suggested Wendell join with other towns to make the samplings more random. Ms. Curtis will contact other towns.

Board members reviewed a letter from the Mass. Highway Dept. re: Speed Zones. Board members, and some citizens are concerned with the speed limit of the section of town from its center to the Country Store. The Selectboard would like to have a pedestrian and bike walk in that area.

The Employee Assistance Program of the Mass Education and Government Assoc. is offering five (5) psychiatric visits per year as part of their Workers Compensation packet.
Board members voted to enroll the Town of Wendell.

A meeting of the Legislative Selectmen's Forum is scheduled for Feb. 10, 1995 at 4:00p.m. in the 2nd Floor Meeting Room of the Greenfield Town Hall. Anne Zak and Margo Culley will attend.

The Quarterly Dinner Meeting of the Franklin County Selectmen's Association is scheduled for Feb. 16th. Regina Curtis will attend.

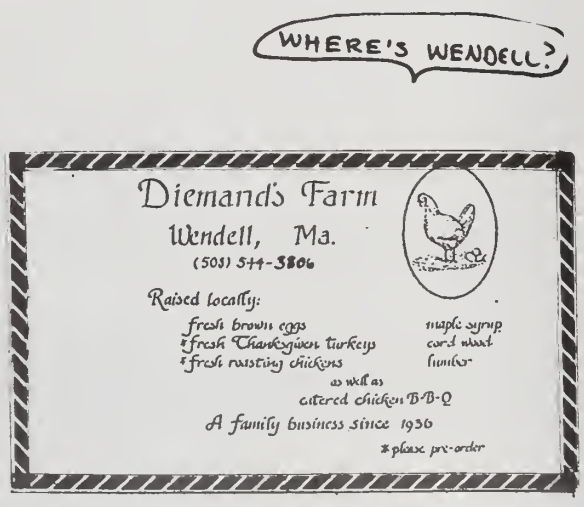
A Workshop re: the design requirements for bridges and road projects is scheduled. Regina Curtis and Danny Bacigalupo will attend.

Bills of Prior Years will be placed on the Warrant for the next Town Meeting.

Ted Lewis will speak with Dean Bennett regarding the hours trucks go through the Town of Montague. See minutes of January 24, 1995.
The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.
Respectively submitted
Elizabeth Scully

Wendell Selectboard Meeting January 31, 1995 - Minutes -

Meeting convened at 7:00 p.m. Members present were: Margo Culley, Anne Zak, and Ted Lewis. Also present: Doug Turner(Athol Daily News), Fran Zera( Greenfield REcorder) Elizabeth Scully, Clerk.



## Selectboard minutes cont.

Prudence Smith attended the meeting to discuss her concern regarding the removal of Public Shade Trees from along the roadside and from the Town Common. A copy of her memo to the Selectboard is attached. Board members empathized with Ms. Smith. They will write to Daniel Bacigalupo asking him to meet with the Selectboard to discuss future regulations concerning this matter. Ms. Curtis will check with the Town of Montague as per their rules and regs concerning the removal of shade trees.

Sofia Fox attended the meeting to discuss Charter School Proposal. She, Ms. Fox, Nora Halpern, Gary Berkhart, Penelope Newcomb, and John Baily are interested parties in this Grant Proposal which would affect the Union #28 students. Ms Fox is seeking letters of support from the community. The Proposal is due on Feb. 15th and if the Grant is awarded the school would open in the Fall of 1995. This project would be financed through a redistribution of funds. That is, the per pupil expenditure which now is paid to Mahar would go to the Charter School. Since there is no allocation of start-up money in the Grant, much fund raising would be needed.

Two letters from Paul Rich were discussed. Copies of Public Records will be made and mailed to him as per his request. Also a letter from Attorney Gates re: Paul Rich's Appeal of the Court's decision to disregard his claim of false valuation of his real estate.

Board members received a fact sheet from the Hearthstone Hill Charter School.

Finance Committee members Dan Keller and Lee Trousdale met with the Board to discuss the Memo of Understanding Wendell will submit to the Town of New Salem regarding the original Swift River School Reimbursement Schedule.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30p.m.
Respectfully submitted
Elizabeth Scully
Selectboard Clerk

Wendell Selectboard Meeting February 7, 1995 - Minutes -
The meeting convened at 7:00 p.m. Members present: Anne Zak, Margo Culley and Ted Lewis. Also present: Fran Zera, Regina Curtis and Elizabeth Scully. Minutes read and approved /warrants signed/correspondence reviewed.

Conservation Commission members, Charles Smith and Mason Phelps attended the meeting to discuss with the Selectboard the ways and means of the construction of a culvert on Jennison Road.

Members of the Selectboard interviewed Eric Wight, an applicant for the position of Building Inspector for the Town of Wendell. As indicated in his resume, his qualifications for the position are excellent. The board has given him time to consider all aspects of the position and will appoint him Building Inspector to replace Dick Theis. . Dick Theis relinquished the job due to time constraints in his new career.

The Selectboard received a letter from Paul Rich complaining of excessive dog barking in his neighborhood. Margo Culley and Anne Zak will look into the matter.

The Mahar School Committee meeting isscheduled for Feb. 7, 1995. They will discuss the 1996 Budget.
The Union # 28 school Committee will meet on Feb. 8, 1995 at 7:30p.m. at the Leverett Elementary School. The Superintendent's evaluation and contract will be on the agenda.

Ms. Curtis gave an overview of the Governor's Budget:
$6,603. increase in Lottery Aid
Chapter 70: Franklin Tech. and Mahar about level funded; New Salem/Wendell $100,000. increase (part of incremental increase in foundation budget toward the goal of $5,000.

They will develop a Metrication Guide for use in the conversions.

It was decided the bill from Anderson Heating for repairs on the furnace at the Old Fire Station will be paid from the Police Department Conversion Fund. This wa a joint decision of the Selectmen, the Finance Committee and the Town Account ant. It was also decided all future bills, such as heating fuel, electric, phone etc. should come from the Police Department's Budget. To compensate the Police Department will have to adjust their Budget request. It was decided a Study Committee for the new Police Station be formed.

The Licensed Electrician Proposal for work needed at the Highway Garage/Fire Station will be the first article on the Warrant for the Annual Town Meeting.

Board members signed contracts for the Partnership Grant and also Motor Vehicle Refunds form for Tax Collector, Judith Wilder.
Since there was no response to Wendell's advertisement for a Building Inspector, it was decided a new ad should be placed in local papers.

A Swift River School Committee meeting is scheduled for January 5,1995. Minutes from the Ad Hoc meeting will be included.

Finance Committee members were disappointed in the outcome of the Ad Hoc meeting. Michael Idoine suggested there is a need for a professional mediator to facilitate future meetings.

Board members and Fin Com decided a bill should be sent to the Town of New Salem for errors in the past reimbursement figures.

The second Article on the Warrant for the Annual Town Meeting will change the wording of the contract with New Salem back to its original wording of "will" and not "may" when referring to reimbursement funds.

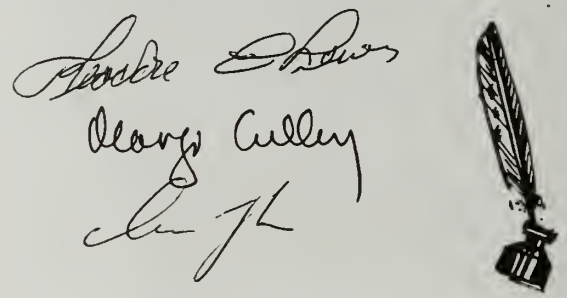
The Board will request the Conservation Commission meet with them to discuss the Jennison Road Culvert.

Anne Zak suggested the Town could profit from an Anti-Intolerance Workshop which would include all Town employees, Town Officials and Appointees and might be led by an organization such as Equity Institute Group.

Regarding the offer of the Koehlers, John and Terri, to donate a house on their property to the town as an historical site, Selectboard members, although grateful, are concerned about the cost of moving it and also the costof up-keep. The will request a meeting with Jean Forward, a member of the Wendell Historical Society, to discuss the feasibility of funding such an effort through grants.

A Pole Hearing was held re: the placement of new Telephone Co. poles on Jennison Road. Abutters were notified. There were no objections. The only attendee was a representative of the N.E.T.C.

The meeting adjourned at 9:47 p.m.
Respectfully submitted
Elizabeth Scully
Selectboard Clerk



The Wendell Well Comm. will be meeting in March with several different water treatment specialists to make a decision on the best way to handle the townhall water problem. The Selectboard has asked the committee to meet with them and keep them informed of any progress and decisions. We will gladly do this. We still have more money to raise so if anyone has ideas, energy or even money we will happily take any help we can get. Yours,
Anne Diemand
Ted Lewis

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# WENDELL OR LOVE IT LEVERETT

PREVIEW = Kathy Becker & Tom Sullivan are considering a spring thing bumper sticker. Shall we? Do it? ☐ YES ☐ NO

A COURSE OF BIRD STUDY FOR BEGINNING AND INTERMEDIATE BIRDWATCHERS

COME CELEBRATE SPRING THIS YEAR WITH A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN ABOUT LOCAL BIRDLIFE!

LED BY MARCY MARCHELLO, THIS YEAR'S SPRING BIRD CLASS WILL DISCOVER MIGRANT SPECIES AS THEY ARRIVE, AND EXPLORE THE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN BIRDS AND HABITATS, AND BIRDS AND HUMANS. THE CORE CLASS WILL CONSIST OF 3 THURSDAY EVENING SLIDE PRESENTATIONS AND 8 SATURDAY MORNING FIELD TRIPS IN WENDELL SPANNING EARLY MARCH TO LATE MAY. ADDITIONAL FIELD TRIPS TO OUTLYING AREAS WILL BROADEN THE CONTEXT FOR UNDERSTANDING BIRDS IN RELATION TO GEOGRAPHY, LIFECYCLES, HUMAN IMPACT, AND SPIRITUALITY.

CALL 508-544-6184 OR WRITE TO MARCY MARCHELLO AT PO BOX 262, WENDELL, MA 01379, TO RECEIVE A SCHEDULE OF EVENTS AND SIGN-UP INFORMATION.

## Burning Season

The burning season for brush piles is upon us once more. The season runs from - Jan. 15 thru April 30 each year. To obtain a permit you must call a Forest Warden on the day you want to burn. Rules are: burning is to be done between the hours of 10 am - 4 pm, an adult must be present at all times, at least 75' from a building and if conditions change that makes the burning dangerous you let the fire die down. Forest Wardens are:

| | |
|---|---|
| Everett Ricketts | 544-3494 |
| Ted Lewis | 544-3329 |
| Anne Diemand | 544-6111 (3806) |

Let's keep it safe.

RECYCLING SAVINGS

Thanks Wendell recyclers and WRATS staff for your careful handling of packing peanuts. We at Myron's Fine Foods appreciate the use of the recycled product!

**WENDELL** is a pleasant town of 539 inhabitants, occupying an easterly section of Franklin County, and bounded on the north by Erving (from which it is divided by Miller's River), on the east by Orange and New Salem, on the south by Shutesbury, and on the west by Montague.

The surface is uneven, and rises at the north into a commanding eminence called Bear Mountain, 1,281 feet above sea-level. The view from the summit of this elevation of the valley of Miller's River, here a beautiful stream, which winds around its northern base, is very fine. The centre of the town is the water-shed, from which some streams flow northerly, as Wickett Brook and Whetstone Brook, into Miller's River; and some southerly, as Swift River and Saw-mill River, into the Chicopee and Connecticut Rivers. These streams furnish an abundant water-power, and beautify the scenery.

The people are engaged in cultivating the soil, which is deep and strong; or in preparing charcoal, wood, and lumber for the market. The rock-maple flourishes here, and the manufacture of sugar receives some attention. The cultivation of fruit-trees has been too much neglected.

The number of farms is 145; of acres of woodland, 2,485. The town has 13 saw-mills, several grist-mills, two postal centres (Wendell and Wendell Dépôt), five school-districts, a good public hall, a Congregational church (of which the Rev. B.B. Cutler is pastor), and a Baptist church without a pastor. The valuation is $195,465; the tax-rate, $2.60 per $100. The number of dwelling-houses is 137; and of voters, 149.

Wendell was taken from Shutesbury and Ervingshire; named from Oliver Wendell, of Boston; and incorporated May 8, 1781. The first church was organized Nov. 29, 1774. John Metcalf had a printing press here, in which, among other works, an edition of Baxter's "Call" was struck off in 1814.

An excerpt from *Gazetteer of Massachusetts*, written by the Rev. Elias Nason, M.A., in **1873**

## 15th annual Wendell Litter Pick-up

The 15th annual Wendell Litter Pick-up will be held on Saturday, April 8, 1995. We will meet at the Wendell Town Office and decide which roads we will be picking up the litter on. Any interested folks, contact Annie Diemand (544-6111) or just show up on Sat., April 8. It's a good idea to have gloves and a friend to walk with is always nice. We need pickup trucks people and trash bags. Help us if you can.

NOTICE

Our new Building Inspector is
Eric Wight 544-5877
Welcome aboard, Eric and good luck!!

PLEASE PUT UP YOUR HOUSE NUMBERS IF YOU HAVE NOT DONE SO YET. IT HAS HELPED THE RESPONSE TIME IN RECENT EMERGENCY CALLS. IF YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH NOT BEING ABLE TO PUT THEM UP YOURSELF, PLEASE CONTACT TED LEWIS AT 544-3329.

# Posting Place

## For Sale

400+ footage at the beginning of Bullard Pasture Road, almost 3 acres, perc completed, $15,000.00/B.O.
Susan: (707) 528-9615

## Craft Note

Miniature reproductions of the wildlife paintings of local artist Bob Ellis can be seen at the Wendell Country Store and the
Village Coop, Leverett. Made up as greeting cards, they feature high quality photographic prints of 4x6 image size, matted in attractive beige cards (recycled paper, of course). New titles appear regularly.
for birthday or holiday greetings, than you notes, or just gifts in themselves, these cards are hard to beat.

The Free box Committee needs a few new people
to keep this great community service alive. Sometimes being a free box volunteer means standing in the freezing cold or hot sun while sorting and loading the incredible excess and overflow generated by the free box, but it can be fun and rewarding too.
If interested, please call
544-7561

## Wendell Aikido Club News

This January marks the sixth year anniversary for the Wendell Aikido Club. Since 1989 the Swift River School has been our winter base for practice and the Wendell Town Common our summer training camp. We now have two nights of classes offered Monday 6-7:30 p.m. and Wednesday 6-7 p.m..

A core group of Aikido enthusiasts have kept the club going strong for the past four years. We now have advanced members with promotions going to Bob Bauver of New Salem and Paul Wanta, Frank Becchetti and Faith Diemand of Wendell.

As always our doors are open to anyone 14 and older. Beginners work side by side with advanced members, with the rewards being great for everyone in this type of dynamic. Anyone interested in classes can call Ria @ 544-2226.

*Stamell Stringed Instruments*
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*Expert repairs and restorations*
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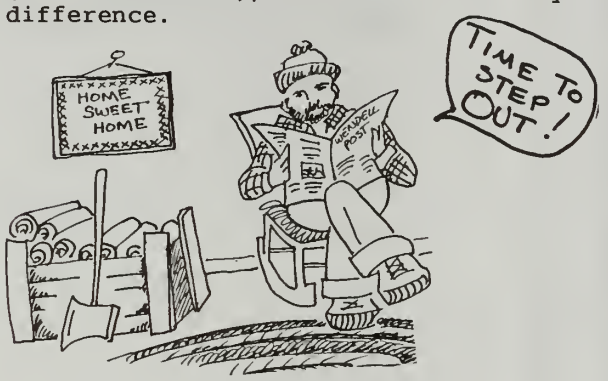
*Matt D. Stamell*
*Luthier*

## Wendell Fire Dept. Holds Open House

There will be an open house at the fire station in April (date to be named later) for all those friends/partners and any other interested parties, to learn more about the fire dept, it's equipment and operation. Firefighting tools will be laid out for you inspection, and questions will be answered by fire dept. personnel. Refreshments will be on hand, and a short film strip will be shown on the introduction of rural firefighting, "WHY ME MUST BE BETTER THAN THE BIG CITY FIREFIGHTER". What we are hoping to gain, besides educating the public in fire prevention, are a few good members (male or female), it doesn't make any difference.




## Art Event

We have it on very good authority that painter Bob Ellis will show a collection of pictures - recent work - in the spring. The opening will take place at the Village Coop, Leverett, on Sunday, March 26, 1995. There will be refreshments and music at 2:00 p.m. in the Coop's lovely, new, "Schmooze Room", and all are welcome to see what Bob's been up to this unusual winter.

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sweep you away
Circle of Hearts
New CD available at the Leverett Coop and the Wendell Country Store

WENDELL'S ORIGINAL

FULLMOON COFFEEHOUSE
MARCH 18th
ZEIT GEIST
Benefit Leverett Coop
APRIL 23rd
WHOLESALE KLEZMER BAND
Benefit Bosnia Relief
MAY 13
WENDELL'S HOMEGROWN
Benefit Stage Curtain

Open Mike at 7:30
Dessert-O-Rama
Always a Benefit!
Sliding Scale Admission

**At the Town Hall**
**Wendell, Massachusetts**

Sat., March 18, 1995
8:30 PM
The Wendell Town Hall
Oooo....♫ Come See...
ZEITGEIST
TIME, SPIRIT, DRUMMING, AND THE KITCHEN SINK
Directed by: SUZY POLUCCI

To benefit the
LEVERETT CO-OP
Desert-O-Rama

SORRY, NO OPEN MIKE THIS TIME
Parental Discretion

# 202 SPORTS INC

announces

*spring* **STREET HOCKEY**

sign ups/registration

**When**: March 11,18, 25

**Time**: 10 A.M.- 2 P.M.

Open to Boys and Girls Ages 4-16

For more Information **Call 544-2202**

(note: this notice is not affiliated with any school function.)